

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DECISIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

SUMMARY: REPORT BY DUTCH DELEGATION ON HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN THE HAGUE ON MBFR INDICATES THAT THE NETHERLANDS WILL ACCEPT MAIN ELEMENTS OF U.S. APPROACH, ALTHOUGH DUTCH FAVOR A STRONGER ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT, CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION. DUTCH WANT TO MAKE MAXIMUM DEMANDS ON ALL THESE ISSUES, IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING SOME RESULTS THROUGH A PROCESS OF GIVE AND TAKE. END SUMMARY

1. DUTCH REP (SIZOO) AT SEPTEMBER 4 SENIOR POLADS MEETING REPORTED ON THE RESULTS OF A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON AUGUST 30 ON MBFR. HE SUMMARIZED THE DECISIONS AT THAT MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

A. REDUCTIONS -- THE NETHERLANDS CAN ACCEPT THE U.S. PROPOSAL INCLUDING SPECIFIC FIGURES, AS A GOAL TO BE SOUGHT, I.E., AS A NEGOTIATING POSITION FROM WHICH TO EMBARK. NUCLEAR ELEMENTS CAN ALSO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR, SUBJECT TO SHAPE COMMENTS.
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B. NEGOTIATING STRATEGY -- CAN ACCEPT U.S. APPROACH. DUTCH ARE AGAINST A VAGUE PHILOSOPHICAL STRATEGY. BETTER TO TABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL AND TIE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS TO IT. BOTH THE SOVIETS AND PUBLIC OPINION WILL THEN KNOW

WHAT ALLIES ARE TAKING ABOUT AND THEY MEAN BUSINESS.
PUBLIC OPINION IN THE NETHERLANDS IS NOW AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
AND WILL EXPECT EARLY MOVEMENT TOWARDS REDUCTIONS.

C. SECOND PHASE -- PRINCIPLE MUST BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED
IN THE FIRST PHASE THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND PHASE, SO THAT IT
WILL BE POSSIBLE TO TELL DUTCH PUBLIC OPINION THAT THERE WILL
BE A SECOND PHASE INCLUDING REDUCTIONS OF DUTCH FORCES.
NEVERTHELESS IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE ANY DETAILED
DISCUSSION IN THE FIRST PHASE OR THE CONTENT OF THE SECOND
PHASE, NOR WOULD IT BE WISE TO SEEK A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO AN
ULTIMATE GOAL OF A COMMON CEILING, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE SECOND
PHASE SHOULD COMPLETE MOVEMENT TOWARDS THAT GOAL.

D. STABILIZING MEASURES -- CAN ACCEPT U.S. PROPOSAL.

E. TACTICS ON STABILIZING MEASURES, VERIFICATION MEASURES AND
EQUIPMENT WITHDRAWAL -- THE NETHERLANDS WANTS THE ALLIES TO
MAKE STRONG DEMANDS IN THESE AREAS. THEY SHOULD "SEEK" THE
MAXIMUM, NOT IN THE EXPECTATION OF GETTING IT, BUT IN THE HOPE
OF GETTING SOMETHING TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY. STRONG DEMANDS
WILL ALSO GIVE THE ALLIES A BASIS FOR A GIVE-AND-TAKE STRATEGY,
I.E., TO THE EXTENT WHICH THE ALLIES GIVE A LITTLE IN ONE AREA,
THEY COULD ASK FOR MORE IN ANOTHER.

2. COMMENT: DUTCH DELEGATION HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT DUTCH
FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS AND VARIOUS STATE SECRETARIES
ATTENDED AUGUST 30 MEETING. GERMAN DELEGATION INFORMS US
THAT FRG'S FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL WILL MEET EARLY NEXT WEEK IN
BONN ON MBFR. RUMSFELD

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